

Website: www.1stuu.org

Email: office@1stuu.org

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Newsletter

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
Office Phone: 313-833-9107

November Edition

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

November 4

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Enlightened Government."

With the elections upon us, it is time to reflect on the relationship between politics and our UU tradition and values. We are an activist tradition, but that does not mean a clear allegiance to one party or another. Historically, we have been on both sides of most issues. But we do have a set of values to use as the basis for assessing our government. Ubuntu recognizes that we are shaped by our government and politics. What would an enlightened government look like?

November 11

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Better Bottom Line."

The progressive idea of the Triple Bottom Line is about considering People, Planet, and Profits in our business decisions.



November 18

Rev. Roger Mohr

"Working Our Quirks."

It is true, we are all unique. But how do we use those differences for our collective benefit?

December 2

Rev. Roger Mohr

"The Home of Progressive Thought."

First UU Church is the historical home of progressive thought in Detroit, and we are proud to claim that title today.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2012-2013

Officers

President

Sally Borden

Vice President

Cynthia Zurschmiede

Immediate

Past President

Marilyn Mitchell

Board Secretary

Kathe Stevens

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister

Rev. Roger Mohr

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Tamara Halliburton

**Worship Services
held every Sunday at
11:00 a.m.**

The deadline for newsletter articles is the 20th of every month! Please send any articles to office@1stuu.org or drop them off in the office.

All those who are involved in the service on Sunday (Speakers, Worship Coordinator, Trustee of the Day, Cantor, and Music Director and/or Guest Musicians) will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:30am each Sunday to review the service.

The President's Corner

Hi everyone! We continue to be busy at First UU as we head into the holiday season. Rev. Mohr brings us interesting and thought-provoking sermon topics and the Worship Committee continues to find speakers with messages that are in keeping with our UU values.

On Saturday, October 20, 2012, your Church Board recently helped me put on an audience participation mystery play at the church which netted us \$300.00. I want to thank everyone who participated in and bought a ticket to this fundraiser. I hope you had fun as we took you back to the 1960s. I am happy that some of you who were recently alienated from the church have come back to take a second look and found that we can be a loving community of individuals with many common values. A church is never perfect and is only as good as the people who lead it and the people who participate in its activities.

It is also exciting to see the many visitors we have every Sunday, several of whom have chosen to join us as church members. We do have an important message of tolerance and acceptance for all people in a time of increasing polarization. Continue to greet our visitors warmly as we get to know them and they get to know us.

As many of you know, a fairly new member, Dale Compton, recently had further heart related surgery and is doing well.

Please let me or Marilyn Mitchell, our membership point person, know about both joys and concerns, so we can keep in touch with those that need our support or our best wishes.

Also let me know of any issues or problems that you think may need the Board's attention. We continue to work on the goals that we set forth this summer related to membership growth, increased programming, improve communication and outreach and an improved organizational structure.

Happy Halloween and Happy Haunting!

Sally Borden
President

Membership Committee and Social Justice Team

Last Sunday, we welcomed Dan Chicklas into church membership and formally introduced Dale Compton, who had signed the book last Spring. We expect to introduce other new members to the congregation on the second Sunday of November. Every second Sunday from now on will be "New Member Sunday" followed by a potluck. Each first Sunday will provide a UU orientation session after church for visitors who want to know more about our movement.

On Saturday the 20th, we staged the production "Kidnap the Truth", an audience participation piece set in a Senate hearing room in the 60s. Rev. Roger played Senator Jack Daniels from Georgia and Dr. Money from Massachusetts with appropriate regional accents. The panel moderator was Sean McAde. Other senators were played by Marilyn Mitchell, Cynthia Zurschmiede and Ruth Seifert. John Angry, Sharlene Gage, Mary Lou Malone and Sandra Thottakath testified before the committee. The audience participation was feisty and fun. It was a great evening and we hope for others as the year progresses.

The First UU Social Justice Team met after church on October 28th with Mary Lou Malone presiding. We intend the Team to have a rotating chair. Fifteen people expressed an interest in joining the Team, so please continue to participate and determine what the next project(s) will be after the election.

Finally, a reminder of what our By-Laws provide regarding membership. Active membership requires that a person sign the membership book and make a monetary pledge of support and make a financial contribution of record. These three requirements allow a member to vote sixty (60) days after signing the book. If you have not yet made a pledge, please request a pledge form for the current fiscal year, which is nearly half over.

Marilyn Mitchell
Membership and Canvass Chair

The Rev's Room

Oh, joy! As part of my mandate from the leadership retreat this summer, I am getting the opportunity to learn all about social media and internet marketing. How much fun is that?! I bet you are totally envious. That's all right, it's only human to desire good things for one's self. The truth is, I really do enjoy learning the newest and best ideas, and then plugging their energy into accomplishing my larger goals – I LOVE technology. Well, I love it, but recognize that not everybody feels that way, and that it can be both abused and abusive. So, I will try not to brag about it. (If the next paragraph seems complete nonsense, read the one below it for explanation and clarification, then come back up.)

But seriously, I am learning a LOT that I hadn't known. I thought I was reasonably current on internet communications. I have over six hundred friends on my personal Facebook account. I know "Twitter" from "Tumblr" – I even own a couple domain names. Alas, it turns out that I am not so savvy as I might like. I have spent a good bit of time setting up accounts for the church and myself on the most important sites, as I understand them, at present. We now have a presence for the church, and for my personal ministry, on Facebook; but also on Twitter, LinkedIn, and MeetUp; it just occurred to me that we will also need a Youtube account (note to self, next week); and a complete overhaul of the church website is in the works for January. I have the sites mostly linked up, but that is a work in progress, and the interface is not necessarily transparent or user-friendly.

For those who do not understand any of the above paragraph, don't worry. Many (perhaps most) of us in the church are "technology immigrants" – we were raised in a pre-computer culture, and we learned what we know about information technology as adults. However, more and more of us, and more and more of our potential members, are tech natives – they grew up with a game controller in one hand and a cell phone in the other. They are nourished on a steady stream of organic, fair trade, vegan "pizza" and boutique beers - intravenously, because they have their hands full (see "...in one hand..." above). Fortunately that is hyperbole; it seems that the abstemious young person is giving way to the adaptable young person – values, like clothing, have fashion sense and season. And young people have the capacity to communicate at a level that can scarcely be imagined by those who are not techno-literate.

That is an amazing amount of soft power – my cell phone takes the place of a computer, a modem, a video camera, a compass, GPS and land navigation equipment, a flashlight, a stereo, an encyclopedia, dictionary, thesaurus, even a language translator (How do you say "Good morning!" in Thai? Got it.), a rolodex, and much more. How about a real time star chart with directional sensitivity and self-correction? Got it. I also have very little need for an office or a receptionist, my calendar is on the phone too – but it is automatically updated to my online calendar, and available from any computer, anywhere that has internet access. As are most of my files, which are cloud-sourced - stored on an external computer that then shares those files with any computer or smart phone I care to use as an access point - the Internet is "The Cloud."). I don't need full time staff or even a physical building. I can jack my computer into my cell phone and create my own wireless internet hotspot, or go the other way

The Rev's Room (continued)

and use a wireless computer network to amplify the power of my cell phone. My smart phone handles all of that. I also send and receive emails anywhere, anytime (I send and receive on average two or three dozen emails a day – and that is just emails, not counting text messaging and social media). Oh, and it is also a telephone (of course).

So what are the social media internet websites about? What are they good for? Aren't they just a fad, a passing fancy of the idle youth? Hardly. Social media is about harnessing all of the information and communication possibilities available via technology as a source of both incoming and outgoing energy and ability. And that is still a work in progress. Much of the current development has to do with the ability to work seamlessly between various sites and platforms to access and transmit information from multiple sources and devices in many different venues, simultaneously (see below). Many people use the word "overwhelming" when actually confronted with the real challenge of managing the sheer volume of information they are required to process to participate in this new environment. And it is overwhelming, even for tech natives. But you don't need to know everything right away, start with something pretty easy, like Facebook. And it is all increasingly user friendly – just ask your average eight year old.

Here is how the social media sites work. Facebook is the main source, right now. If you don't learn any other site, learn Facebook. It is still a good place to start. Twitter is more for fun, short blasts of information – just brief comments or links to more information, 140 characters or less. If you look at the sermon notices, you will notice they have become noticeably shorter, say, less than 140 characters. That way I can "tweet" them. Why? Because that way they go out to all our Twitter followers, but appear AUTOMATICALLY on Facebook, too. Oh, and LinkedIn, which is a professional and organizational networking site, is linked to Twitter and thus to Facebook. If I post on LinkedIn, it automatically posts to the Twitter account and to the Facebook account. Interface. And it is also possible to include the church website as a link, which it is on all of the church accounts and on my personal accounts.

How do you start? Well to get a Facebook account, just fill out the form when the homepage screen comes up - it offers the choice to "log in" or "sign up." Pick "sign up." You will have to have an email account to get started, but most of us already have one. If you don't have an email account, start with an email account, then focus on learning Facebook. That goes for any of the sites you might like to try out, in general. Then you start looking for First UU Detroit. Here are the initial sites:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/firstuudetroit/>

Or my professional page <http://www.facebook.com/revrogermohr/>

Twitter is <https://twitter.com/FirstUUDetroit>

and the LinkedIn group is

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/First-Unitarian-Universalist-Church-Detroit-4672783/>

Finally Meetup (for service announcements and whatnot) is [http://www.meetup.com/](http://www.meetup.com/First-UU-Detroit/)

[First-UU-Detroit/](http://www.meetup.com/First-UU-Detroit/)

Enjoy. Namaste! Rev. Mohr

From Your Activities Coordinator and Crew

Our schedule of events, *thus far*, for before and after the service on Sundays and other than Vespers on the Wednesdays those appear are:

4th 9:00 a.m. Choir practice

12:30 p.m. Intro to FUUD (First U.U. of Detroit) for prospective (and current) members to learn (more) about the history, tradition and culture of UUism and our church. It's an important step toward becoming a member—we are proud of who we are and want you to be proud to be with us!

3:00 p.m. WSU Faculty Music Recital, free. We'll get a bite to eat on the way.

11th 9:00 a.m. Choir practice

12:30 p.m. Potluck Share your food with FUUD! (Please label re: vegetarian and possible allergens.)

3:00 p.m. WSU Faculty Music Recital, free.

4:00 p.m. DIA The Tempest—film of a Stratford, Ontario performance. \$6 with Sherry.

6:00 p.m. *NEW!* Sunday Evening Meditation: Right Relation

18th 9:00 a.m. Choir practice

25th 10:00 a.m. Movement Choir

1:00 p.m. – Let's wing it ! Impromptu is sometimes good for the soul. We'll see who's still in town over the T-Day weekend.

28th Wed. 7:30 p.m. WSU Chamber Music Recital free

Dec. 1 Noel Nite—A tradition at first church with seasonal performances, a craft show and light refreshments as are our contribution to the decades old event in the Cultural Center.

Dec. 2 9:00 a.m. Choir practice

12:30 p.m. New UU

3:00 p.m. WSU Opera Workshop—scenes from Marriage of Figaro, The Pearl Fishers, Candide. \$5 students and seniors, \$8 others. A sampler for new to opera and buffs.

Church Announcements and Events

Message Topics

Remember, Rev. Mohr is always open to new ideas for sermon topics, either in terms of texts and sources, or in terms of topics. If you have an idea for a sermon, please do feel free to share it.

Pop Songs for a FUUD hymnal!

We have been using lots of “contemporary” songs in our services this year, and we want to start collecting them up so we can gather sheet music for our professional musicians, Todd and Gwenn, to use on Sundays. What songs do you love to sing that might be uplifting for our services? Pete Seeger, “Turn Turn Turn”? How about Desiree, “You Gotta Be”? Beatles, “All You Need Is Love”? Marvin Gaye, “What’s Going On”? Louis Armstrong, “What a Wonderful World”? If you think of something, Rev. Mohr is collecting them, just send your ideas with artist and title to reverendmohr@gmail.com .

Important Reminder!

With the campaign season heating up, it is important to remember that whatever our political beliefs and preferences, the church cannot promote or take sides on behalf of a particular candidate or party. That means we cannot have individuals representing particular candidates campaigning in the buildings as guests of First Church.

If you have any questions as to what is appropriate, please contact Rev. Mohr or President Sally Borden.

Church Announcements and Events

Vespers Wednesday

Wednesday evening Vespers runs from 6:00 - 7:00pm on the **2nd** Wednesday each month.

FIRST Sundays at 12:30. Intro to FUUD:

Are you new to the church, or just interested in learning more about our church and tradition? The Introduction to First UU class is about offering introductory information about what the church is all about, and it is an important step toward becoming a member. There are two objectives: one is to share information on the UU tradition as a whole, and a second goal is to focus specifically on the history and traditions of the Detroit church. Please do attend: We are proud of who we are, and we want you to be proud to be with us!

SECOND Sunday Potluck:

Time to break out your best recipe and bring it to church – share your food with FUUD! As we begin to add new members, it is a good time to share fellowship and nourishment with the people who nourish us, in return. Remember that everything must come and go the day of the event – we have no refrigerator space to keep things beyond the immediate need. If you have dietary concerns (peanut allergies, and such), please do let us know, so that food can be labeled.

NEW! Sunday Evening Meditation: November 11, 6:00 p.m.

This month, we will talk together about **Right Relation** – How do we create relationships that are in harmony with our selves, others, and with the cosmos? This is an experimental service, intended to be more quiet and centering as we return from our weekends and prepare for the week ahead. This service will be held in the sanctuary, with soft lights, meditation, acoustic music, and conversation about a chosen topic.

Church Announcements and Events

Noel Nite

First UU will open its doors to the community for the annual Noel Nite celebration on Saturday, December 1. Plans include a holiday bazaar in McCollester Hall (vendor spaces still available), First UU choir, various local schools and other local talent performing in the Sanctuary and Memorial Hall. This year there will be more integration with other members of the Cass Corridor Community Commons. Peoples Kitchen will be serving food. Fender Bender will have a bike display. There will be massage therapists. Not only do we use this as an evening to open our facilities to the greater area, but also as a time to spend with ourselves. On Friday, November 30, join us at 6:30 for a simple dinner followed by decorating our building and grounds. Volunteers will be welcome for the day to help set up, give guided tours, serve as greeters, chaperone acts and help with clean up. Contact Dan Wiest and Joan Smykowski for more info.

Chancel Flower Donations - 2013 Dates Available!

Our custom for providing flowers for each Sunday service is to have members and friends donate them in honor or memory of a person or event. The **2013** signup sheet for donating flowers is now in the back of the church (some call it the narthex). Please take a moment to add your name and the person/event you wish to honor. Suggested donation is \$20 but is negotiable depending on your situation. Lencha Acker purchases the flowers each Saturday at the Eastern Market and delivers them to church on Sunday. The donor then takes the flowers home to enjoy and returns the vase later. If you have questions, see Lencha Acker after the service or call her at 313-393-8544. Thank You!

November 6 General Election

VOTE411.org

Election information you need

Before you vote, go to **VOTE411.org** for election information you need:

- What's on the ballot
- Who are the candidates
- Their views on issues.
- Non-partisan

Review this webpage for candidates and proposals appearing on the November election ballot. **Build your ballot with the online voters' guide.** Type in your address to see the races on your ballot. Candidates' positions can be compared side-by-side, and you may print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences as a reminder and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

This webpage maintained by the League of Women Voters of Michigan, a non-partisan organization.

*If you have any questions please contact Toni Tront ttront@mindspring.com,
313.274.2171, member Social Justice Committee of 1stUU.*

NOVEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Happy Birthday Mary Lee Ventzke!	3
4 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "Enlightened Government." 12:30pm - Intro to FUUD 3:00pm - WSU Faculty Recital	5	6 General Election	7	8	9	10 Happy Birthday Robert Johnson!
11 New Member Sunday 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "Better Bottom Line." 12:30pm - Potluck 6:00pm - Evening Meditation: Right Relation	12	13	14 6pm - Vespers, Al Acker Happy Birthday Carole Hosey!	15	16	17
18 9am - Choir Practice 11am - "Working Our Quirks."	19 Happy Birthday Sharon Mills!	20	21	22	23 Happy Birthday Jerry Williams!	24
25 10am - Movement Choir 11am - Sermon 1:00pm - TBD Activity Happy Birthday Kathe Stevens!	26	27	28 7:30pm - WSU Chamber Music Recital	29	30 6:30pm - Dinner followed by Noel Night setup	December 1st Noel Night!



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CHURCH OF DETROIT

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First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit Classified Ads

Dear UU Friends,

Needing to raise income for my extravagant lifestyle; I turn to you for assistance. I offer two possible ways we may benefit each other. First, many know I make original hand beaded jewelry. I offer the chance to host a jewelry get together. I benefit from sales; you benefit from hostess gift. Jewelry repair is also available. Secondly, I have been a rep for a distinguished natural food supplement company for over 30 years. I know how such products are different from each other and I can help you understand this also. This company has a 50 year history of making environmentally friendly household products and naturally sourced food supplements.

I hope you will feel free to talk to me about any of this.

Sincerely and thankfully,
Yvanne
248-703-3971 or yvanne1@comcast.net

Used books from honest book dealers.

TomFolio.com (Thanks from Gwen Foss!)

There is no charge for members and donors and only \$5.00 for everyone else. To submit an ad, please see Tamara in the church office, leave a message on the church voice mail (313-833-9107) or send an email to office@1stuu.org.